

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
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Jeffrey Dean et al.         ) Group Art Unit: 2176  
                                )  
Application No.: 09/734,883 ) Examiner: G. Sain  
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Filed: December 13, 2000    )  
                                )  
For: SCORING LINKS IN A    )  
DOCUMENT                     )  
                                )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicant(s) bring(s) to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement:

- includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).
- is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

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**Certification 1:** Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

**Certification 2:** No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Copies of the listed non-patent documents are attached.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in a prior application, serial no. \_\_\_, filing date \_\_\_, upon which applicant(s) rely(ies) for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

1. \_\_ discloses \_\_.

2. \_\_ discloses \_\_.

English translations of the non-English documents are enclosed.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the \_\_ Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant(s) determine(s) that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant(s) further reserve(s) the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If any copending application(s) is/are cited on the attached PTO 1449, the Examiner's attention is directed to the foregoing application(s) in compliance with § 2001.06(b) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. By identifying the copending application(s), the assignee and/or applicant of the application(s) do not waive confidentiality of the application(s). Accordingly, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is requested to maintain the confidentiality of the copending application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 122.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1070.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: /Paul A. Harrity/  
Paul A. Harrity  
Reg. No. 39,574

11350 Random Hills Road  
Suite 600  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
(571) 432-0800

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 44989

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